Broad Gauge Railway Line

4061. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme for laying broad gauge railway line between Ajmer and Udaipur has been started;

(b) if so, the work included in the first phase of the scheme;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to convert the Udaipur-Ahamedabad via Dungarpur-Himmat Nagar Rail line into broad gauge in future under this scheme; and

(e) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) It has been decided to take up Gauge Conversion between Ajmer and Udaipur after obtaining the necessary clearances and approvals for which action has already been initiated.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Railway Hospital, Katni

4062. SHRI DADA BABURAO PRANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railway Hospital, Katni of Madhya Pradesh is without any basic amenities viz. No Heart specialist, Child specialist, Surgical Doctor, Medicine Doctor, Lady Doctor and even the patients of small illness are referred/sent to Jabalpur; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of Hospital and to check the exploitation of patients by the Medical staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Allotment of Stalls

4063. SHRI SHIJUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of book stalls and refreshment stalls at present, Zone-wise; and

(b) the number out of them allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Sabha.

[English]

Extension of Railway Line

4064. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the Taranga railway line to Ambaji under the Western Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

Central Fishery Research Project

4065. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether efforts are being made to shift the Central Fishery Research Project at Burla in Orissa to Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether shifting of the institution is going against the interests of the people of Orissa; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to keep the Research centre at Burla only?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Burla Centre of the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) was established in 1963 for the development of fish harvesting techniques in Hirakud Reservoir. Having completed its mandate and as per the recommendations of the fourth Quinquennial Review Team (Q.R.T.) of CIFT for the period 1986-93, the Centre is being shifted to Madhya Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. The Burla Centre of CIFT served the Orissa fisheries for a period of more than 32 years and has achieved its objectives in Orissa.

(c) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Funds for Land Conservation

4066. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to each State by the Union Government for Land Conservation during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(b) the details of progress made in this regard in each State, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Soil Conservation and land development in various states :

(i) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects.

(ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.

(iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils.

(iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas.

(v) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas.

A list of States/U.Ts. along with funds released during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is given in statement-I attached. In addition to the States funds have been released directly to Damodar Valley Corporation for implementing the Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects.

In addition to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the Department of Wastelands Development implements a scheme called Integrated Wastelands Development. The activities undertaken under this scheme include : (i) Natural re-generation (ii) afforestation and pasture development (iii) Horticulture (iv) distribution of fuelwood saving devices (v) soil and moisture conservation (vi) training and extension. The amount released to the States under this scheme during 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 53.00 crores and Rs. 51.00 crores respectively. Funds upto 20% of the outlay can be spent on soil conservation works.

(b) Physical achievement made during 1994-95 and 1995-96 in respect of three schemes namely RVP, FPR and RAS is given in statement-II attached. The scheme on Reclamation on Alkali Soils was initiated during last quarter of 1995-96 in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and M.P. where actual area treatment has not yet started. Under NWDPRA and IWD programmes, there are a number of components and the area covered exclusively under soil conservation is not indicated.

Under the scheme of Watershed Development in Shifting Cultivation Areas, various activities like vegetative hedges, dry land, horticulture, agro-forestry and erosion control structures have been included. In Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland an area of 3513 ha., 1726 ha. and 7380 ha. has been covered. In case of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh field work has yet to start. Physical achievement in respect of Mizoram and Tripura where work has started has not been reported so far.